



The President's Daily Brief

29 December 1970

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PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

Some Communist main force regiments have moved from Cambodia into the border area north of Saigon where they appear to be targeted against allied positions. (Page 1)

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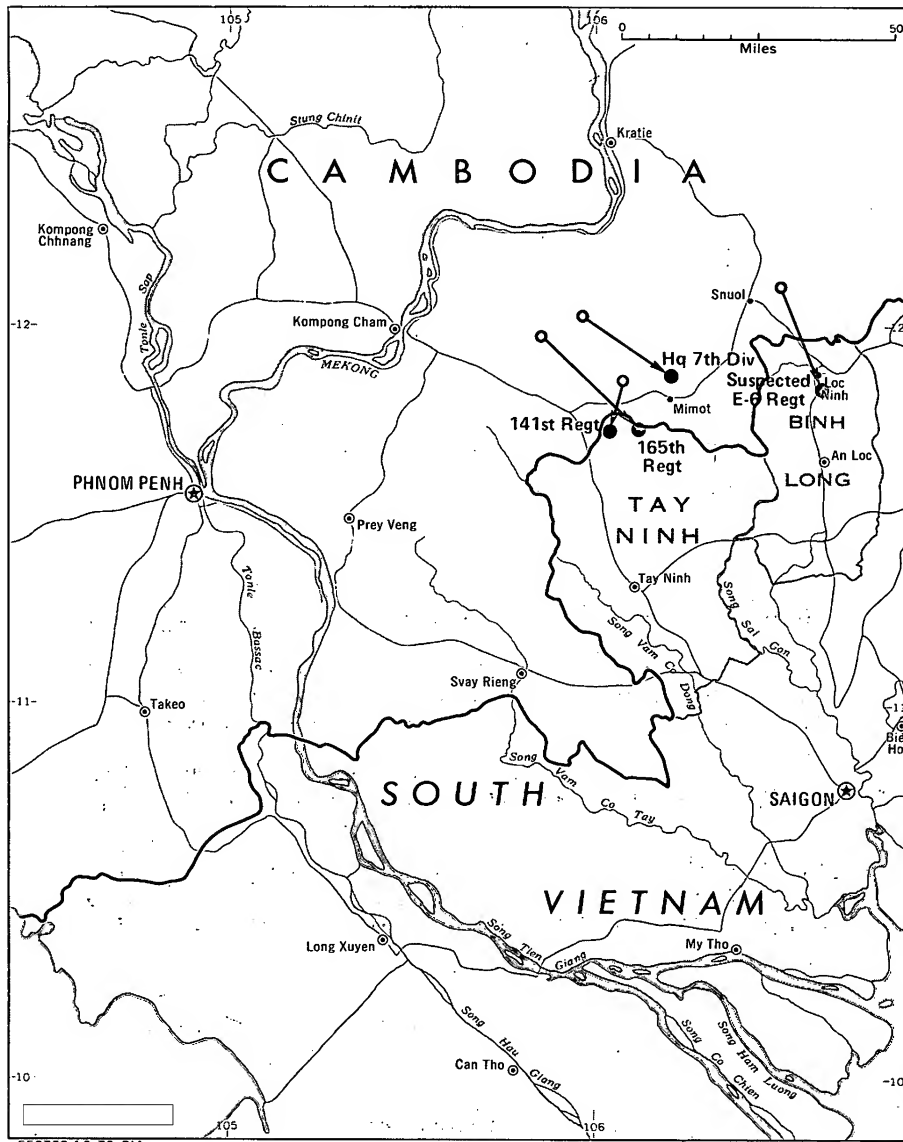
The conduct of the Basque trial confirms at least a temporary shift in favor of the most conservative forces in Spain. (Page 3)

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All six SAM sites in eastern Cuba have been deactivated. (Page 4)

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Recent Communist Unit Relocation



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SOUTH VIETNAM - CAMBODIA

The 141st and 165th regiments of the North Vietnamese 7th Division have moved from Cambodia and are now situated just inside northern Tay Ninh Province, probably under the control of the division headquarters, which is nearby. A suspected regiment of the Communist 5th Division, which itself remains well to the west in Cambodia, is close to Loc Ninh town in northern Binh Long Province. Shellings in northern Tay Ninh Province and an appreciable increase in enemy hostilities near Loc Ninh suggest that these units are targeted against allied positions inside South Vietnam.

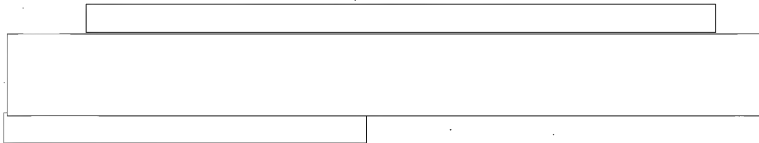
These main force regiments could be used to tie down South Vietnamese regulars in the border regions by harassing South Vietnamese positions and ambushing convoys along several key roads in the border area. If these tactics disrupted planned South Vietnamese dry-season operations into Cambodia, the Communists would gain valuable time to rebuild their supply network there.

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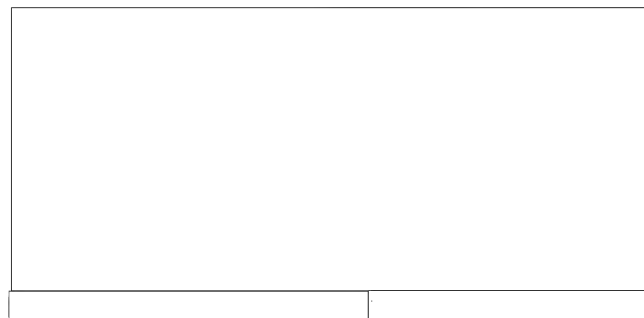
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SPAIN

The conduct of the trial of Basque nationalists, which yesterday resulted in death sentences for six handed down by a military court, confirms at least a temporary shift in favor of the most conservative forces in Spain. These groups--notably the Falange, Spain's only legal political movement, and the senior military--have exploited the trial to recover much of the ground lost a year ago. At that time cabinet shifts gave ascendancy to the Opus Dei group--also politically conservative but interested in greater economic liberalism.

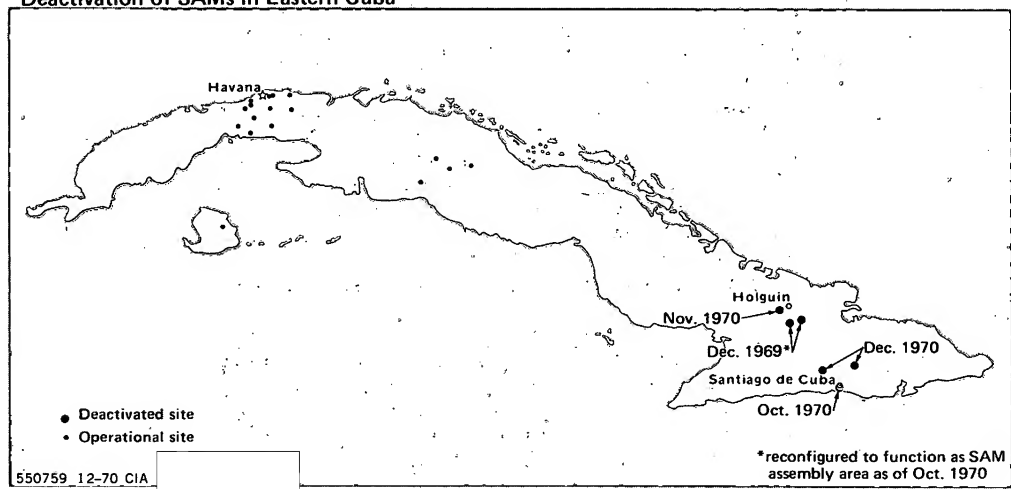
In the past few weeks adherents of the Falange and the military have used the idea of solidarity with Franco and the army to organize massive pro-Franco rallies throughout Spain, against the wishes of the cabinet. The military now appears to have reaffirmed its role as arbiter of Spain's politics.

Franco has the prerogative of commuting the death sentences, if the regional army commander confirms them. He has always been reluctant to make concessions when under pressure--as in 1963 when he refused to commute a death sentence despite considerable adverse international comment. However, differences within the army, []

[] over the advisability of the death penalty for the Basques may give him more flexibility in this case.

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Deactivation of SAMs in Eastern Cuba



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NOTE

Cuba: Recent U-2 photography shows that all six SAM sites in eastern Cuba have been deactivated. Removal of equipment from two of the sites had begun by December 1969, and from the remainder by last October. SAM sites and their equipment from time to time have been shifted, but never before has so large an area been left uncovered. Photography [] suggest that some of the equipment from the east has been moved to Havana, but no new sites are known to have been activated.

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